

gratitude

FEBRUARY 2012 UGM.ca

Annual Report 2010 | 2011 Edition



**UNION
GOSPEL
MISSION**

Feeding hope. Changing lives.

We thank Tech Web Direct for donating resources to print this full colour newsletter.

Message from the President and Board of Directors

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Moving forward into the new year is always an exciting time at Union Gospel Mission. It is a chance for us to build on the past year's accomplishments and plunge head first into 2012 with fresh perspective and renewed energy for the work God has set out for us.

This past year has been one of incredible blessings at Union Gospel Mission. In April, we launched the single largest expansion of programming in UGM's history when we opened the doors of our purpose-built six-storey community facility at 601 East Hastings Street. With the addition of this space, our program capacity has doubled, and in some cases, tripled. This expansion means more people can participate in UGM's life-changing programs and services. – Ultimately, it will be a fresh start for many men, women and children in need.

We have seen the demand for our meals, shelter and recovery programs increase dramatically with thousands of people turning to UGM for help every month. We recognize the need is greater than all community agencies throughout Metro Vancouver can currently meet which is why UGM is continuously asking, what else can we do? How can we address this growing need more effectively? The answer is simple: In partnership with you – because together, we can transform a community one life at a time.

At UGM we depend on the consistent support that generous *Hearts for the City* donors provide on a monthly basis. This vital source of funding ensures that our transformational programs and services are available year-round to help people who are looking to

change their lives. While everyone who partners with UGM is an incredible blessing, we want to give special recognition to our dedicated *Hearts for the City* (ugm.ca/monthly-giving) monthly donors who raised \$2,159,974 last year, contributing nearly 20% to Union Gospel Mission's overall operating funds!

Your support is especially crucial as UGM responds to this rising need. We all have something to contribute, be it financial support, time, prayers, or a simple word of encouragement. Our smallest actions might lead to someone transforming his or her life. Your prayers and support allow us to provide effective programs that give individuals an opportunity to achieve a brighter, healthier tomorrow. If we continue to form strong alliances with caring and generous individuals like you, there's really nothing we can't accomplish together.

Through diligent labour, prayerfully considered programming and faith in God's providence, UGM commits to working with you to create profound and lasting change in our communities. Please join us in our vision to end the heartbreaking cycle of poverty, homelessness, and addiction.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for your compassion and care for those we serve.

God Bless you,

William B. Mollard
President

Teresa Black Hughes
Chairperson of the Board of Directors



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UNION GOSPEL MISSION

601 EAST HASTINGS ST.
VANCOUVER, BC, V6A 1J7
604.253.3323
[UGM.ca](http://ugm.ca)

EDITOR: JANA EIDSE
PRODUCTION COORDINATOR: NATALIE DUNLOP
PHOTOGRAPHY: LEAH GREGG
DESIGN AND LAYOUT: ZACH BULLCK

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Union Gospel Mission was awarded a \$50,000 creative services grant from the Karo Group in 2010 which allowed UGM to undergo an exhaustive brand analysis and redesign process. Our new look became official in April, 2011 in conjunction with the expansion of our ministry and the move into our new facility which will double or triple UGM's capacity to help those in need. We are extremely thankful to the Karo Group (karo.com) for providing their expertise to UGM at no charge.

Year in Review

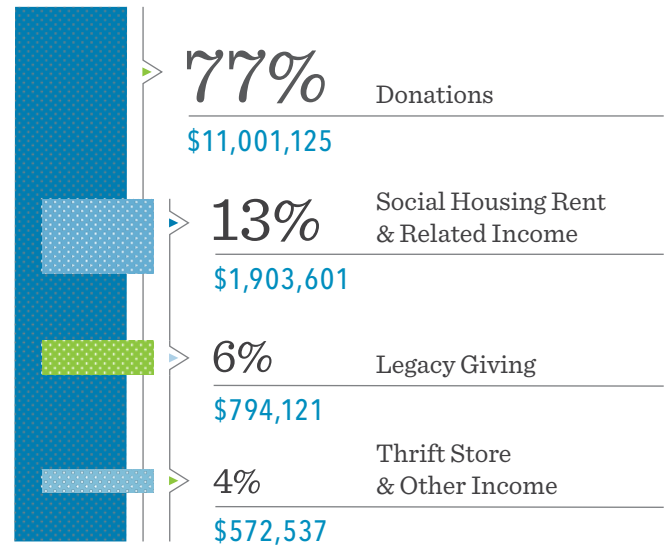
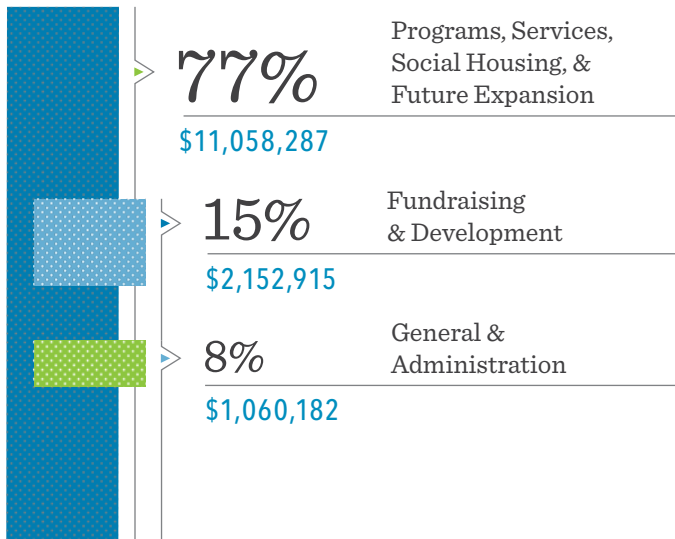
UNION GOSPEL MISSION & UNION GOSPEL HOUSING SOCIETIES

EXPENSES & DESIGNATED FUNDS

\$14,271,384

DONATIONS & INCOME

\$14,271,384



Contributions in Action 2010

Here's a snapshot of what donors like you made happen last year.



260,664
Daily meals served throughout the year



712
Children sent to summer camp



11,595
Emergency shelter bed nights



6,412
Counselling sessions provided



10,863
People received clothing & bedding



2,325
Food hampers provided to families & those in need



5,474
Volunteers worked with UGM



36
Employment services class graduates



53
Alcohol & Drug Recovery Program graduates:
33 MEN & 20 WOMEN

Here are just three of the many lives you changed this year

► Holly

Holly is a single mom with four children. Since moving to the Downtown Eastside, life hasn't been easy. Struggling to find clean, affordable housing, Holly and her family have had to live in dilapidated, unsafe buildings with people openly using drugs in the halls and sex trade workers conducting business on site. It certainly isn't what she wanted for her kids, but at the time, it was all she could afford.

Over the last 4 years Holly and her children have developed close relationships with UGM staff through the Women and Families Centre, attending family camp together as well as enjoying regular meals and programs throughout the year. Holly's eldest daughter, once shy and withdrawn, has become more social and now attends UGM's afterschool program, Eastsiders, as a leader.

The relationships formed every day here at UGM create community and the love goes both ways. Justine, UGM Outreach Worker, shares, *"Watching Holly's kids grow up has been a real blessing. She is a very resourceful mom who cares deeply for her children. Her positivity and zeal for life is so uplifting. We are blessed to have them in our lives."* Holly feels as though she has found a second family at UGM, a strong and reliable support system that has changed her and her children's lives.

► John

After 40 years battling drug addiction, John's body was breaking down. He had become isolated from the outside world and disconnected from his family. John remembers, *"I spent most of my time locked alone in a room doing drugs and drinking. I was 123 pounds and I actually had cancer in my bladder that I didn't even know about."* Struggling to survive, John came to Union Gospel Mission for a meal and got connected with the Alcohol and Drug Recovery program. He relished the atmosphere of love and hope at UGM, nourishing his mind, body and spirit.

After much hard work and determination John completed the Recovery program, and now celebrates 3 years of sobriety. *"I would have been dead without UGM,"* John shares, *"The last three years that I've been clean and sober have been the best years of my life. The Lord's blessed me with a total*



Holly and her four kids, Twyla, Noel, Xeyrus, and Xander.

renewing of my life." John has reconnected with his children and is whole-heartedly dedicated to supporting his community and church. UGM is blessed to have John employed as an integral part of our Outreach Team.

► Paula

Paula, whose Cree name is Horse Woman, came to Union Gospel Mission after a life time of sexual abuse and intense violence. After years of struggling to survive on the streets of the Downtown Eastside, Paula realized things needed to change or she would die. Seeking safety and support, she came to Union Gospel Mission and started to develop deep relationships with trained Outreach Workers and others in the Women and Families Centre. *"Being part of the UGM community keeps me sober,"* says Paula. *"I feel like God is living in the Women and Families Centre. I know I'm safe here."*

Now 10 months sober, Paula is passionate about helping other women who struggle with violence and addiction. She shares, *"When we are all working together, hand in hand, we can't fall. I wish that all women in the Downtown Eastside could experience the freedom of letting go of drugs."* Paula is using her life experience and passion to help others and she is in the process of becoming a volunteer with UGM.